

Last year was the busiest on record for the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). From July 2003 through June 2004, WCB approved 81 projects, totaling over \$470 million. Matched by its partners who contributed an additional \$419 million, the total amount of these projects - \$889 million. Projects ranged from the acquisition and protection of wildlife habitat and the restoration of riparian and wetland areas, to the development of public access improvements.

Partnerships and conservation

WCB's emphasis on developing and fostering partnerships with conservation groups, including federal, state and local resource agencies, conservancies, joint ventures and non-profit conservation organizations led to last year's success. A small organization, WCB uses partnerships to not only leverage funds, but to increase the number of conservation projects by

Wildlife Conservation Board

Los Osos Dunes and Wetlands, Montana de Oro Unit, located on the south side of the Morro Bay Estuary, part of the Morro Bay Estuary Greenbelt Alliance project.

WCB photo by Dave Means



calling on the expertise and resources made available through its partners. In addition to helping develop projects, partners gather crucial local project support, sponsor community outreach programs and meet with local officials and organizations.

WCB's project approval process requires informing local communities and adjacent landowners of proposed projects. Throughout the year, WCB received strong local support on projects, through letters of endorsement from organizations and private citizens, private fund raisers, volunteer workers and community support groups.

WCB projects must have willing property owners, whether for acquisition, conservation easement, or habitat restoration. WCB's partners have helped identify and promote programs to landowners, leading to opportunities.

A major participant throughout this process has been the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). WCB relies upon DFG for information including identification of projects, biological



Oyster Point Fishing Pier Improvements, public fishing access provided on the San Francisco Bay in South San Francisco.

WCB photo by Tony Chappelle

assessments, and project prioritization on a statewide and regional level. Though significantly affected by resource reductions, DFG has continued to be a steadfast proponent and partner in the promotion of WCB projects.

Collaboration leads to millions in projects

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2003-2004

Southern California

In Southern California WCB collaborated with many partners on the Natural Community Conservation Plans in Riverside and San Diego County, including the acquisition of the East Elliot Preserve and Dennery Canyon. WCB assisted in the protection and restoration of a number of valuable and critical coastal wetlands and watersheds by working with the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (a large coalition of representatives from federal, state and local coastal areas), the State Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. The acquisition of the Ballona Wetlands led to the start of restoration planning for over 600 acres of rare wetlands and upland areas in Los Angeles County. WCB also approved funding for restoration of the Bolsa Chica wetlands, one of the largest wetland restoration projects ever undertaken in Southern California. Further inland, WCB assisted the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy in protection of desert habitats and continued to acquire property for the expansion of DFG's San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Across this southern region, WCB provided funding for a number of local public access and fishing pier facilities.

Central California

WCB assisted the San Joaquin River Conservancy in the protection, restoration and development of public access and habitat improvements along the San Joaquin River Parkway. WCB continued its support of the Morro Estuary Greenbelt Alliance and other local partners in the protection of property around the Morro Bay Estuary. Throughout the Central Valley, WCB partnered with the Central Valley Joint Venture and other conservation organizations to help restore and protect numerous habitats, including expansions to the DFG Los Banos and Volta wildlife areas, the Allensworth Ecological Reserve, and restoration on private properties. Within the central coastal range and the Sierra foothill regions, large tracts of land were protected through a combination of fee acquisitions and conservation easements, including a major expansion to the DFG Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve. In the Owens Valley, WCB provided funding to Inyo County for restoration of riparian habitat along a large stretch of the Owens River, while also providing funds for the Owens Lake Wildlife Area acquisition. Along the coast, WCB and DFG have begun evaluating and identifying potential steelhead recovery projects.

Northern California

WCB was busy in the San Francisco Bay Area, working with the San Francisco Bay Area Joint Venture, DFG, the State Coastal Conservancy and other Bay Area conservation groups, in the acquisition and restoration of significant wetland areas. In the Sacramento Valley region, WCB helped fund the acquisition and restoration of riparian areas along the Sacramento River. At the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, WCB provided funding for major wetland enhancement and water delivery improvements.

On the northern coast and in conjunction with the Coho Salmon Recovery Program, WCB acquired habitat and assisted in the restoration of significant Coho salmon watershed areas. Working with DFG, WCB also provided funding for the repair and installation of numerous fish screens in the northern portions of the state. A number of fishing piers, boat ramps and related public access facilities were developed, including improvements at the Turtle Bay Recreation Area in Redding, and fishing facilities at Eagle Lake and in the City of Eureka.

WCB also made significant headway in the acquisition and protection of habitat areas to be added to the Lake Earl Wildlife Area. In the Sierra Mountains, WCB used conservation easements to protect thousands of acres of working ranches for preservation of habitat and natural landscapes.

Compliance Monitoring

With the large number of conservation easements and restoration projects approved by WCB over the last four years, WCB has begun placing a greater emphasis on monitoring completed projects to ensure compliance and to measure project success. As part of this effort, WCB will be working with its partners to evaluate specific projects in order to improve our habitat restoration efforts. In the future, WCB hopes to report on these findings, and provide examples of partners and landowners that have exceeded expectations in their stewardship of easements and restoration projects. 

**Riparian Habitat Restoration,
American River parkway, Phase
II, crews removing invasive
species.**

*Sacramento Weed Warriors
photo © Frank Wallace*

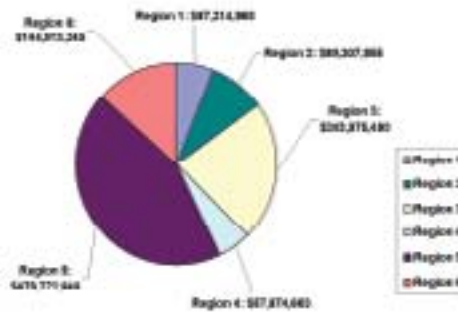


WCB Accomplishments by DFG Region Jan. 2000 - June 2004

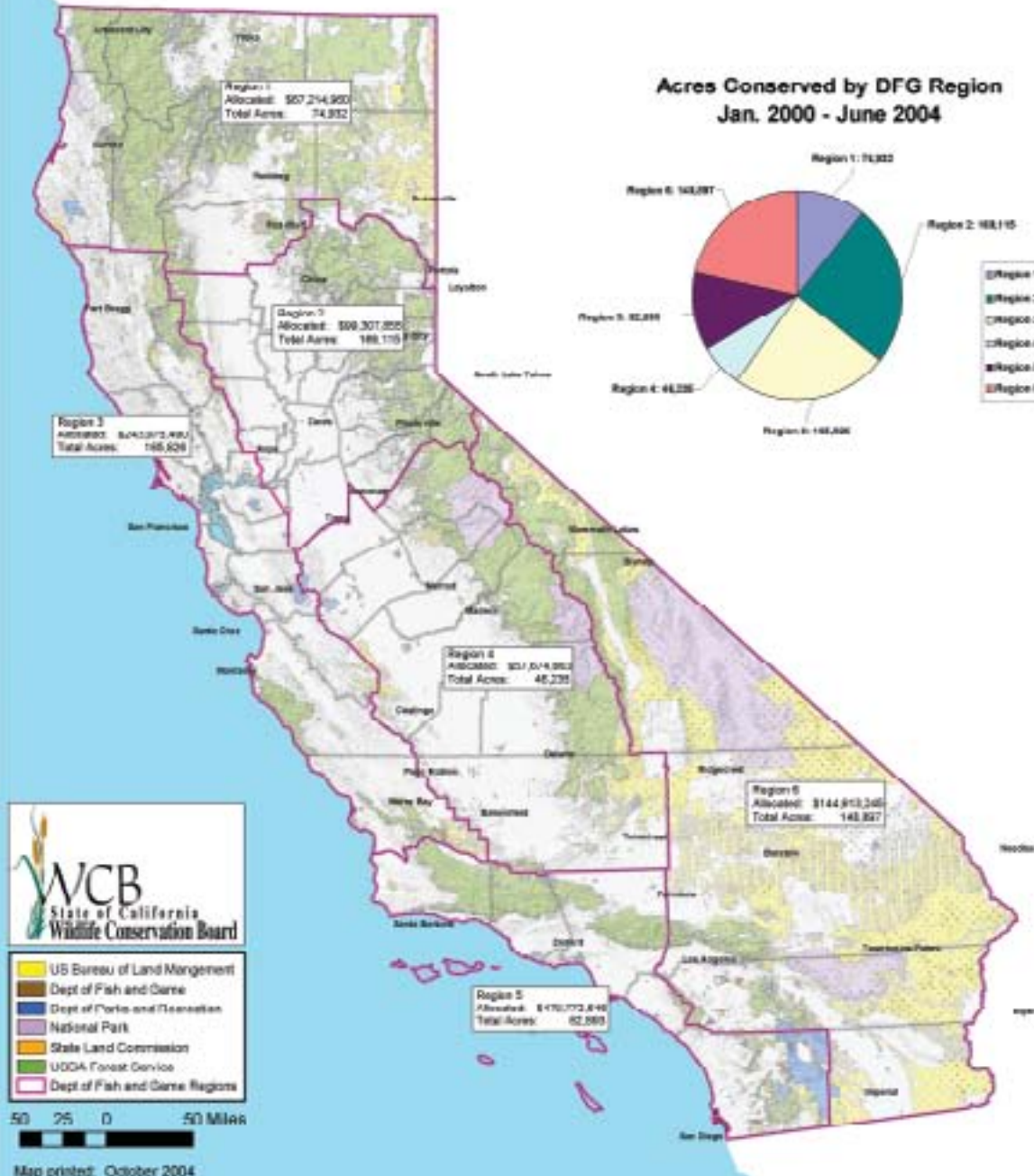
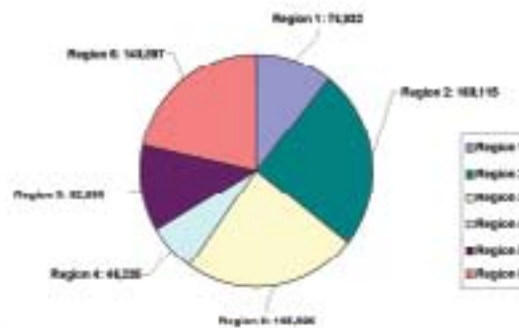
Total Allocated includes
Fee, Easement, and Reversion
Projects: \$1,052,855,859

Total Acres conserved include
Fee, Easement, and Restoration
Projects: 687,898 Acres

WCB Allocations by DFG Region Jan. 2000 - June 2004



Acres Conserved by DFG Region Jan. 2000 - June 2004



Thanks to voter support WCB has received significant funding to protect and restore California habitats. In the year 2000, Prop 12 was passed; in 2002, Prop 40 was passed, followed by Prop 50. Under these three propositions nearly 700,000 acres has been protected or restored. The map provides a breakdown of funding and projects that WCB has approved since 2000 through the 2003/2004 fiscal year. The projects and allocations are further broken down by the different DFG Regions within the state. The pie charts provide a breakdown by the types of projects funded, funding allocations, acreages and participation from other funding sources over this same time period.

South Fork American River, Lower Canyon Unit, Expansion 1, acquisition in El Dorado County.

*American River Conservancy
photo © Alan Ehrgott*



Conservation partners:

WCB partners and cooperating organizations in 2003-04.

*American River Conservancy
Angeles Volunteer Association
Bay Foundation
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Rangeland Trust
California Tahoe Conservancy
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
California Waterfowl Association
California Wildlife Foundation
Central Valley Joint Venture
Department of Boating and Waterways
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources
East Bay Recreation and Park District
Environmental Protection Agency
Fall River Resource Conservation District
Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps
Inyo County Water Department
Jacoby Creek Land Trust
San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
Morro Estuary Greenbelt Alliance/Friends of the Estuary
Morro Bay National Estuary Program
Muir Heritage Land Trust
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

*Natural Resources Conservation Service
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Riparian Habitat Joint Venture
Riverside Land Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Joint Venture
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
Spalding Community Services District
San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority
San Joaquin River Conservancy
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
State Lands Commission
Solano Land Trust
San Mateo County Harbor District
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Save-the-Redwoods League
State Coastal Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. National Park Service
Yolo Land Trust*

| Project | County | Acres | Purpose | Partners | Allocation | Fund | DFG Region |
|---|---------------------|--------|---------|--|---------------|----------|------------|
| Honcut Creek Wildlife Conservation Area, Expansion 3 | Butte | 740 | RH | DFG | \$920,000 | P40 | 2 |
| Franklin Ridge | Contra Costa | 158 | OW | MHLT, SCC, EBRPD, and Others | \$205,000 | HCF | 3 |
| Lake Earl Wildlife Area Expansion, Pacific Shores Unit | Del Norte | 387 | CW | DFG | \$3,000,000 | P50 | 1 |
| Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion 28 | Del Norte | 4 | CW | DFG | \$9,333 | P50 | 1 |
| Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion 29 | Del Norte | 10 | CW | DFG | \$9,333 | P50 | 1 |
| Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion 30 | Del Norte | 6 | CW | DFG | \$9,334 | P50 | 1 |
| Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion 31 | Del Norte | 6 | CW | DFG | \$15,000 | P50 | 1 |
| Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion 32 | Del Norte | 5 | CW | DFG, SCC | \$10,000 | P50 | 1 |
| Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion 33 | Del Norte | 8 | CW | DFG, SCC | \$10,000 | P50 | 1 |
| Pine Hill Ecological Reserve | El Dorado | 23 | TE | USFWS, ARC, BLM, DFG | \$6,000 | HCF | 2 |
| South Fork American River, Lower Canyon Unit, Exp. 1 | El Dorado | 515 | RH | ARC | \$2,871,000 | P50 | 2 |
| Sacramento River, Jacinto Unit, Expansion 1 | Glenn | 20 | RH | TNC | \$5,000 | P12 | 2 |
| Grizzly Creek Forest, Expansion 1 | Humboldt | 691 | RH | DFG | \$18,300,000 | P40 | 1 |
| Jacoby Creek Forest, Expansion 3 | Humboldt | 20 | RH | DFG, JCLT | \$1,130,000 | P50 | 1 |
| Mattole River (Upper Tract) | Humboldt | 965 | FH | SRL, BLM, Resources Legacy Fund | \$220,000 | P12 | 1 |
| Owens Lake Wildlife Area, Cartago Springs Unit | Inyo | 218 | RH | DFG | \$958,000 | P50 | 6 |
| South Fork Kern River Ecological Reserve | Kern | 2,700 | RH | USACOE, NFWF, DFG, Packard Foundation | \$1,950,500 | P40 | 4 |
| (Canebrake Creek Unit, Expansion 2) | | | | | | | |
| Allensworth Ecological Reserve | Kern, Tulare | 0 | TE | BOR, DFG | \$25,000 | HCF | 4 |
| Ballona Wetlands | Los Angeles | 483 | CW | SCC, TPL, DFG | \$140,000,000 | P50 | 5 |
| San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Expansion 12 | Madera | 360 | RH | SJRC | \$6,635,000 | P13, P12 | 4 |
| Garcia River | Mendocino | 1,770 | SSH | TNC, SCC, USFWS, BLM, DPR, and Other | \$3,352,750 | P50 | 3 |
| Volta Wildlife Area, Expansion 2 | Merced | 120 | IW | DFG | \$220,000 | HCF | 4 |
| Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Napa River Unit, Expansion 1 | Napa | 259 | CW | SCC, DFG | \$1,780,000 | P50 | 3 |
| Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 1 | Plumas | 8,027 | IW | SierraBusiness Council, Packard Foundation | \$1,273,000 | P40 | 2 |
| Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 26 (Sand Source Corridor Unit) | Riverside | 20 | DH | DFG | \$230,500 | HCF | 6 |
| Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 27 (Sand Source Corridor Unit) | Riverside | 10 | DH | DFG | \$86,500 | HCF | 6 |
| Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 28 (Sand Source Corridor Unit) | Riverside | 5 | DH | DFG | \$46,500 | HCF | 6 |
| Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 29 (Sand Source Corridor Unit) | Riverside | 10 | DH | DFG | \$86,500 | HCF | 6 |
| Lower Colorado River ER | Riverside | 1,350 | RH | DFG | \$11,400,000 | P50 | 6 |
| Oak Valley | Riverside | 357 | OW | RLC | \$5,005,000 | P40 | 6 |
| San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Expansion 26, (Potrero Canyon Unit) | Riverside | 9,117 | TE | USFWS, DFG | \$12,157,000 | P40 | 6 |
| Santa Rosa Plateau ER, Exp. 4, (Change of Scope) | Riverside | 3,100 | G | DFG | \$0 | - | 6 |
| Santa Rosa Plateau ER, Exp. 5, (Change of Scope) | Riverside | 1,100 | G | DFG | \$0 | - | 6 |
| Santa Rosa Plateau ER, Exp. 6, (Change of Scope) | Riverside | 130 | G | DFG | \$0 | - | 6 |
| Sky Valley Ecological Reserve | Riverside | 8,881 | DH | TNC, DFG, BLM, CVMC, and Others | \$5,125,000 | P40, HC | 6 |
| East Elliott Preserve and Denny Canyon | San Diego | 175 | TE | USFWS, City of San Diego | \$5,000 | P40 | 5 |
| San Dieguito River Valley Corridor, Phase II | San Diego | 73 | CW | TPL, SDRPIPA | \$1,295,000 | P50 | 5 |
| Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve, Expansion 5 | San Luis Obispo | 15,350 | TE | TNC, DFG | \$8,120,000 | P50, HC | 3 |
| Los Osos Dunes and Wetlands, Montana de Oro Unit | San Luis Obispo | 42 | CW | DPR, SCC, Bay Foundation | \$1,555,000 | P50 | 3 |
| Morro Bay Dunes, Expansion 1 | San Luis Obispo | 20 | TE | TPL, DPR, USFWS | \$175,000 | P50 | 3 |
| Morro Dunes ER, South Unit | San Luis Obispo | 32 | TE | TPL, NOAA, USFWS | \$916,000 | P50 | 3 |
| Santa Rosa Creek Ecological Reserve | San Luis Obispo | 106 | RH | DFG | \$765,000 | HCF | 3 |
| San Bruno Mountain - Shellmound | San Mateo | 26 | TE | USFWS, TPL, Caltrans, San Francisco Fou | \$5,000 | HCF | 3 |
| Elwood Mesa | Santa Barbara | 136 | RH | City of Goleta, SCC, TPL | \$4,010,000 | P50 | 5 |
| Watsonville Slough (Buena Vista Unit) | Santa Cruz | 289 | CW | TPL, Caltrans, SCC, USFWS, USNPS, DF | \$2,288,000 | P12 | 3 |
| Balls Ferry Expansion 1 | Shasta | 345 | IW | DFG | \$1,325,000 | P50 | 1 |
| Fall River Valley (Noel Ranch) | Sierra | 2,147 | RH | FRRCD, The Conservation Fund, DFG | \$174,000 | P50 | 1 |
| Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, Expansion 5 | Solano | 1,742 | DR | DFG | \$2,750,000 | HCF | 2 |
| Sky Valley-Cordelia Hill's Open Space | Sonoma | 3,800 | R | SLT | \$1,010,000 | P40 | 3 |
| Willow Creek | Sonoma | 5 | SSH | DPR, SCC, TPL, SCAPOSD | \$4,207,000 | P50 | 3 |
| Tehama Wildlife Area Land Exchange | Tehama | 5 | OW | CDF, DFG | \$0 | - | 1 |
| Commander South Tract | Tehama, Lake, Glenn | 23,000 | TE | Conservation Fund | \$7,270,000 | P40 | 1/2/3 |
| Ahmanson Ranch | Glenn | 2,959 | OW | SCC, SMMC, MRCA | \$135,000,000 | P50 | 5 |
| Eastern Bluebridge Range | Ventura | 6,983 | R | CRT, YLT | \$2,450,000 | P40 | 2 |
| Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 | Yolo | 119 | IW | DFG | \$180,000 | HCF | 2 |

2003/2004 WCB Restoration and Public Access Projects

| Project | County | Acres | Purpose | Partners | Allocation | Fund | DFG Region |
|--|---------------------|-------|---------|--|--------------|----------|------------|
| Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, Initial Stewardship | Alameda | 7,000 | CW | CWF, Resources Legacy Fund, DFG | \$2,910,000 | P50 | 3 |
| San Joaquin River Parkway, Friant Cove Public Access | Fresno | 0 | FA | SJRC, Caltrans, DBW | \$351,000 | P12 | 4 |
| San Joaquin River Parkway, Lewis S. Eaton Trail Augmentation | Fresno | 0 | WRA | City of Fresno | \$168,000 | P12 | 4 |
| San Joaquin River Parkway, Lewis S. Eaton Trail, River Center Extension | Fresno | 0 | WRA | SJRC, SJRPCT | \$59,000 | P12 | 4 |
| C Street Dock Fishing Access | Humboldt | 0 | FA | City of Eureka, SCC, USDHUD | \$500,270 | P40 | 1 |
| Riparian Habitat Restoration, Lower Owens River Saltcedar Control (Augmentation) | Inyo | 300 | RH | ICWD | \$560,000 | P12 | 6 |
| Eagle Lake Fishing Access Improvements Augmentation | Lassen | 0 | FA | DBW, SCS | \$200,135 | WRF | 1 |
| Crystal Lake Public Access | Los Angeles | 0 | FA | USFS, DFG, FRVC, AWA | \$150,000 | WRF | 5 |
| Habitat Restoration, White Point Nature Preserve Augmentation | Los Angeles | 90 | TE | PVPLC | \$170,000 | HCF | 5 |
| Wetland Habitat Restoration, Duck Slough, Flynn Ranch | Merced | 900 | WV | CWA, USFWS, NRCs, DFG | \$150,000 | HCF | 4 |
| Wetland Habitat Restoration, Frog Pond | Merced | 190 | WV | CWA, DFG | \$85,000 | HCF | 4 |
| Riparian Habitat Restoration, Carmel River Lagoon | Monterey | 84 | RH | DPR, SCC, DFG | \$752,260 | P12 | 3 |
| Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Public Access Bridge | Orange | 0 | WRA | CWF, DFG | \$141,900 | P50, WRF | 5 |
| Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration | Orange | 880 | CW | SLC, DFG, SCC, USFWS, USACOE, NMFS, EPA, and Others | \$10,000,135 | P50 | 5 |
| Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, Shellmaker Island Wetland Restoration | Orange | 10 | CW | CWF, DFG | \$69,000 | P50 | 5 |
| Riparian Habitat Restoration, Polaris Creek | Placer | 1 | RH | CWF, CTC | \$25,000 | HCF | 2 |
| Salt on Sea Habitat Planning and Restoration Project | Riverside, Imperial | 0 | TE | DWR | \$20,000,135 | P50 | 6 |
| City of Isleton Public Access Augmentation | Sacramento | 0 | FA | City of Isleton | \$308,135 | P40 | 2 |
| Riparian Habitat Restoration, American River Parkway, Phase II | Sacramento | 200 | RH | County of Sacramento, DFG | \$382,000 | HCF | 2 |
| Habitat Restoration, Goat Canyon | San Diego | 23 | CW | DPR, NOAA, SCC | \$1,800,260 | P50 | 5 |
| San Joaquin River Parkway, Willow Lodge Improvements | San Joaquin | 0 | DFG | SJRC, SJRPCT | \$265,000 | P12 | 4 |
| Oyster Point Fishing Pier Improvements | San Mateo | 0 | FA | SMCHD | \$99,270 | WRF | 3 |
| Riparian Habitat Restoration, Feather River Wildlife Area, O'Connor Lakes Unit | Sutter | 228 | RH | River Partners | \$1,307,000 | HCF | 2 |
| San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Protection and Restoration | Various | 0 | CW | SCC | \$40,000,135 | P50 | 3 |
| Riparian Habitat Restoration, Bobcat to Blue Oak Ranches | Yolo | 7 | RH | Audubon Society, DFG, NRCs, Center for Land-based Learning | \$542,500 | HCF | 2 |

